



POL 13-10 US
 RR POL 17 USSR-NS
 Department of State
TELEGRAM

652

CONFIDENTIAL 614

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05624 281556Z

43
 ACTION EUR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IG-12 SS-14 NSC-10 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SY-03 FBI-01 USSS-00

CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 RSR-01

T-03 /086 W

O R 281457Z AUG 72
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5540
 INFO USMISSION USUN
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL I A L TEL AVIV 5624

SUBJECT: JDL LEADER KAHANE WARNS OF POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING OF
 SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN US

SUMMARY: JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE LEADER MEIR KAHANE CALLED
 AT EMBASSY AUGUST 28 AND IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS STATED
 THAT SRLINTER GROUP CALLED "NAKAM" OF JEWISH EXTREMISTS IN US
 WITH WHICH KAHANE SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WERE
 REPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATING ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP SOVIET
 DIPLOMATS WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. KAHANE SAID MANY JEWS
 IN WAKE OF SOVIET TAX ON EMIGRATION OF EDUCATED SOVIET JEWS
 FEARED USSR MIGHT RETURN TO STALINIST PERSECUTIONS. KAHANE
 CREDITED US WITH MAJOR HELPING ROLE IN RECENT LARGESCALE
 EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM USSR AND INDICATED IT NOW
 UP TO US TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION.

WHAT
 APPEARED TO BE THINLY VEILED THREAT. KAHANE EXPRESSED HOPE
 USG COULD INDUCE USSR TO CHANGE TAX POLICY IN TIME TO AVERT
 EXTREMIST ACTION AGAINST SOME SOVIET DIPLOMAT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAN STATING HE WAS CALLING ON BEHALF OF RABBI KAHANE, TELEPHONED
 EMBASSY AUG 25 STATING KAHANE WANTED TO SEE AMBASSADOR AT 3:00
 P.M. AUG 28 AND HAD "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DANGEROUS MATTER".
 CALLER TOLD AMBASSADOR OUT OF COUNTRY. KAHANE WOULD BE RECEIVED BY

8-28-72
 Tol Levin
 5624

REVIEWED BY 421688 DATE 3.13.87
 TS AUTH. REASON(S)
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
 DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
 RELEASE DENIED ☐
 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

2

94



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05624 281556Z

OFFICER APPROPRIATE TO HIS BUSINESS IF HE WOULD STATE BUSINESS. IF CALLER HAD "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DANGEROUS MATTER" HE SHOULD GIVE IT TO EMBASSY WITHOUT DELAY, NOT WAITING FOR CALL THREE DAYS LATER. CALLER STATED ONLY THAT KAHANE WOULD APPEAR 3:00 P.M. AUG 28 AND THAT HE ASSUMED EMBASSY WOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE OFFICER ON HAND.

2. MORNING AUG 28 CALLER AGAIN PHONED TO CONFIRM THAT KAHANE WOULD BE AT EMBASSY AT 3:00 P.M. AND ASKED WHO WOULD SEE HIM. SINCE HE WOULD NOT STATE PURPOSE OF VISIT, HE WAS NOT TOLD WHICH OFFICER WOULD HANDLE.

3. AT 3:15 P.M. 28TH KAHANE APPEARED, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE MEMBERS OF JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE (JDL), AND SPOKE TO EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND A POLITICAL OFFICER ABOUT EXIT TAX SOVIETS LEVYING ON JEWISH EMIGRANTS WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. ASKING THAT HIS COMMENTS BE CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON, KAHANE SAID THAT SOME JEWS FEARED THAT SOVIET MOVE WAS PRELUDE TO SHOW TRIALS AND RESTORATION OF STALINIST PERSECUTION OF JEWS. HE ADDED THAT JDL HAD BEEN QUIET ON QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWS IN PAST YEAR OR SO BECAUSE JEWS HAD BEEN GETTING OUT AND "MODUS VIVENDI" HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. NOW, KAHANE CLAIMED, SOVIETS HAVE UPSET ARRANGEMENT.

4. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD, IN PAST, RESPONDED TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE WHEN IT WAS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO. HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED USG HAD BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR LARGE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO HAD IN PAST TWO YEARS BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE USSR. BOTH US AND USSR HAVE MAJOR INTEREST IN "CO-EXISTENCE" AND SOVIETS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US TRADE, HE CLAIMED. KAHANE SAID THAT US-USSR RELATIONSHIP MORE IMPORTANT TO SOVIETS THAN SOVIET JEWS.

5. KAHANE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED RECENTLY WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT HE CALLED FOR KIDNAPPING SOVIET DIPLOMATS. WHAT HE HAD DONE WAS TO WARN SECRETARY ROGERS THAT THERE WERE SOME JEWS WHO MIGHT TAKE RECOURSE IN SUCH EXTREME MEASURES. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT ADVOCATE SUCH ACTION. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT JDL HAD IN PAST USED VIOLENT PROTEST AGAINST SOVIET DIPLOMATS WITH SPECIFIC AIM OF UPSETTING RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND USSR. KAHANE SAID THAT TWO YEARS AGO WHEN AMB YOST HAD TOLD HIM HIS ORGANIZATION WAS DAMAGING US FOREIGN RELATIONS, KAHANE HAD REPLIED THAT THIS WAS HIS HOPE AND INTENTION.

6. KAHANE SAID THAT IN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE JDL THERE ARE ALWAYS

CONFIDENTIAL

24



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 5624 281556Z

SPLINTER GROUPS WHICH MAY BE MORE RADICAL. IT WAS HIS CONCERN WITH THIS POSSIBILITY THAT HAD PROMPTED HIM TO WARN THE SECRETARY. THERE IS ALWAYS "SOME NUT", HE SAID, WHO IS READY TO KIDNAP A DIPLOMAT OR TAKE A SHOT AT HIM. KAHANE CLAIMED THAT SOMEONE HAD COME TO HIM IN PAST WEEK AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A JEWISH GROUP IN US CALLED "NAKAM" (VENGEANCE) WHICH WOULD TAKE UP THIS "MATTER OF KIDNAPPING" SOVIET DIPLOMATS WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. KAHANE SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF THIS GROUP AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE MAN WHO CAME TO HIM AND COULD NOT CONTACT HIM. KAHANE SAID THAT THE MAN SPOKE GOOD HEBREW BUT DID NOT APPEAR ISRAELI OR AMERICAN. KAHANE DECLINED TO DESCRIBE HIM AND SAID: "I HOPE HE DOES NOT DO IT, AND IF HE DOES, I HOPE HE DOES NOT GET CAUGHT." KAHANE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE MAN WAS A CRACKPOT OR CRANK.

7. KAHANE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT USG WOULD TAKE ACTION TO CONVINCE SOVIETS THAT IT IS IN THEIR INTERESTS TO LET SOVIET JEWS GO SO THAT "SOME NUT" WOULD NOT ACT AGAINST A SOVIET DIPLOMAT. HE ADDED THAT WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE "A NUT" CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

8. KAHANE SOUGHT (AND RECEIVED) NO STATEMENTS FROM EMBASSY OFFICERS AND SAID THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO DELIVER ABOVE MESSAGE.

GDS
ZURHELLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

24